

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:AMBASSADOR KUBISCH:RAH
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172371

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, GR

SUBJECT: SCHAUFLE NOMINATION: DISCUSSION BETWEEN
ALEXANDRAKIS AND KUBISCH

1. AS PART OF HIS DISENGAGEMENT FROM GREEK RESPONSIBILITIES, AMBASSADOR KUBISCH PAID A FAREWELL VISIT TO GREEK EMBASSY AND AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS JULY 22. VISIT HAD BEEN DELAYED BY KUBISCH UNTIL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND ATHENS AS TO HOW TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM SURROUNDING AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S NOMINATION TO GREECE. ALEXANDRAKIS IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART WASHINGTON FOR ATHENS JULY 23 FOR VACATION.

2. MEETING WITH ALEXANDRAKIS WAS PRIVATE AND LARGELY PROTOCOLAIRE EXCEPT FOR ONE PERIOD OF DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE SCHAUFLE APPOINTMENT. ALEXANDRAKIS INQUIRED WHAT REACTION
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KUBISCH HAD ENCOUNTERED IN WASHINGTON ON HIS RETURN EARLIER THIS WEEK. SAYING HE WAS NOT SPEAKING TO ALEXANDRAKIS ON ANY OFFICIAL BASIS OR ON BEHALF OF USG, KUBISCH SAID THAT AS A FRIEND HE COULD NOT REFRAIN FROM TELLING ALEXANDRAKIS OF THE ASTONISHMENT AND RESENTMENT HE HAD FOUND AT VIRTUALLY ALL LEVELS OF THE USG CONCERNING THIS EPISODE. IT WAS ONE THING, HE SAID, FOR THE GREEK PRESS AND GREEK PUBLIC OPINION

TO DISTORT AND MISINTERPRET WHAT SCHAUFLELE HAD SAID AT THE

SFRC HEARING SINCE GREECE WAS A FREE COUNTRY WITH A FREE PRESS, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS DEEPLY FELT IN WASHINGTON THAT THE REACTION IN GREECE WAS UNJUSTIFIED AND UNWARRANTED. BUT THE REACTION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS SOMETHING ELSE. FOR THE GOG TO HAVE SUGGESTED THAT IN VIEW OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED THE USG SHOULD RECONSIDER SENDING SCHAUFLELE TO GREECE WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN UNDERSTOOD; TO ACCOMPANY IT BY THE ASSERTION THAT IF THIS WERE NOT DONE WITHIN 24-48 HOURS, THE GOG WOULD DECLARE SCHAUFLELE UNWELCOME HAD ASTOUNDED US OFFICIALS, INCLUDING OFFICIALS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF OUR GOVERNMENT. KUBISCH SAID THAT IN HIS EXPERIENCE SUCH A PEREMPTORY AND THREATENING DEMARCHE BY A FRIENDLY AND ALLIED GOVERNMENT WAS UNHEARD OF. ALEXANDRAKIS SAID THAT HE AGREED THAT THE SECOND PART OF THE GOG MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON HAD BEEN "A MISTAKE."

3. STRESSING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND NOT ON BEHALF OF THE USG, KUBISCH WENT ON THAT HE THOUGHT THE GOG SHOULD BE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN THE JULY 20 ORAL MESSAGE TO BITSIOS. IT ENABLED THE GOG TO EXTRICATE ITSELF FROM A DIFFICULT POSITION. HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWING SCHAUFLELE'S NOMINATION HAD NEVER BEEN SERIOUSLY ENTERTAINED AND THAT IF THE GOG HAD, FOR EXAMPLE, DECLARED CONFIDENTIAL

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SCHAUFLELE NON GRATA, THE IMPACT ON US-GOG RELATIONS COULD HAVE BEEN QUITE SERIOUS, INCLUDING THE OFFICIAL ATTITUDE TOWARD ALEXANDRAKIS HIMSELF AND HIS EMBASSY. ALEXANDRAKIS VOLUNTEERED THAT HE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN UNABLE FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME TO SEE SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS AND, CONCEIVABLY, HE HIMSELF MIGHT HAVE BEEN REGARDED AS "UNWELCOME" IN WASHINGTON. KUBISCH AGREED THAT SUCH ;N OUTCOME--AND PERHAPS WORSE--COULD HAVE HAPPENED.

4. ALEXANDRAKIS INQUIRED WHETHER SCHAUFLELE MIGHT TAKE HIS OATH OF OFFICE AS AMBASSADOR TO GREECE BEFORE THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS MET IN NEW YORK IN LATE SEPTEMBER. KUBISCH RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW, THAT HE WAS DEPARTING FROM GREEK AFFAIRS, BUT THAT HE ASSUMED NOT. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT HE SIMPLY DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

5. COMMENT: ALEXANDRAKIS WAS VERY MUCH ON THE DEFENSIVE DURING THIS CONVERSATION, BOTH ON BEHALF OF THE GOG AND PERHAPS BECAUSE OF HIS OWN PROBABLE UNHELPFUL ROLE DURING THE SECOND HALF OF LAST WEEK IN CONTRIBUTING TO THIS MOST REGRETTABLE EPISODE. HIS INQUIRY ABOUT SCHAUFLELE'S

POSSIBLE OATH-TAKING MAY BE SIGNIFICANT OR MAY SIMPLY
RESULT FROM HIS PARTIAL REMOVAL FROM THE MAINSTREAM OF WHAT
HAS TRANSPIRED OVER THE PAST 72 HOURS. IN ANY CASE, IT

APPEARED FROM THIS CONVERSATION THAT SOME GREEK OFFICIALS
THOUGHT THE GOG ACTED IN A RASH AND ILL-CONSIDERED WAY
LAST WEEKEND AND ARE SERIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT ONGOING
RESENTMENT AND BITTERNESS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN PROVOKED
WITHIN US OFFICIAL CIRCLES. VANCE

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